

In the Claims:

1 - 14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A frame over which woven wire mesh is to be stretched and secured to form a sieving screen which can be used to screen solids from drilling mud recovered from down-hole when drilling for oil or gas comprising

a rectilinear moulded plastics frame having edge regions by which it is secured in place in a shaker

and defining a plurality of rectilinear windows formed by an orthogonal array of intersecting ribs also of moulded plastics material

at least some of which are internally reinforced by a structure comprising two spaced apart layers of orthogonal intersecting spaced apart wires, running parallel to the length and breadth of the rectilinear shape of the frame within the ribs to increase their rigidity, wherein:-

- 1) the edge regions of the frame are reinforced internally by metal box-section members joined at their four corners and defining a perimeter reinforcement and
- 2) the ends of the wires are secured to the box-section members.

16. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein the box-section members are encapsulated in the same plastics material from which the orthogonal array of intersecting ribs are moulded.

17. (currently amended) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein ~~alternate ribs are~~ every other rib is not reinforced with wires.

18. (currently amended) A frame as claimed in claim 17 wherein ~~the non-reinforced ribs only extend~~ every other rib that is not reinforced extends partway between the upper and lower faces of the frame.

19. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein lengths of wire bent to form spacers and adapted to fit between upper and lower wires of the rib reinforcing structure are joined to the upper and lower wires so as to extend therebetween and maintain the desired separation of the two layers of wires during the plastics encapsulation/moulding process.

20. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 19 wherein the spacers are welded to the wires.

21. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 19 wherein the spacers are wholly contained within the plastics material which form the ribs.

22. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein the box-section members of the perimeter reinforcement have a square cross section.

23. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein the box-section members of the perimeter reinforcement have a rectangular cross-sections.

24. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein the ends of the two layers of wires are secured to the upper and lower faces of the perimeter reinforcement.

25.-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A screen constructed from a frame as claimed in claim 15 and at least one layer of woven wire stretched over and secured to the upper surface of the frame so that tension is maintained in the wire cloth at the end of the manufacturing process.

28. (previously presented) A screen as claimed in claim 27 when fitted in a shaker wherein the screen is clamped in position in a shaker basket using a pneumatic seal or by wedges driven into position between abutments protruding internally from the shaker basket and the upper face of edge regions of the screen.